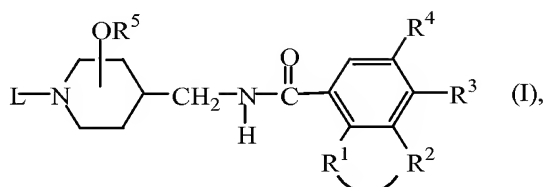


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, an *N*-oxide form thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, wherein

-R<sup>1</sup>-R<sup>2</sup>- is a bivalent radical of formula

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-O- (a-1),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (a-2),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O- (a-3),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (a-4),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O- (a-5),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (a-6),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O- (a-7),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (a-8),

wherein in said bivalent radicals optionally one or two hydrogen atoms on the same or a different carbon atom may be replaced by C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or hydroxy,

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy;

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen, halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl substituted with cyano, or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy;

C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; cyano; amino or mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino;

R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and the -OR<sup>5</sup> radical is situated at the 3- or 4-position of the piperidine moiety;

L is a radical of formula

-Alk-R<sup>6</sup> (b-1),

-Alk-X-R<sup>7</sup> (b-2),

-Alk-Y-C(=O)-R<sup>9</sup> (b-3),

-Alk-C(=O)-NH-C(=O)-R<sup>11</sup> (b-4),

-Alk-C(=O)-NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>11</sup> (b-5),

-Alk-SO<sub>2</sub>-NH-C(=O)-R<sup>11</sup> (b-6),

-Alk-SO<sub>2</sub>-NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>11</sup> (b-7),

wherein each Alk is C<sub>1-12</sub>alkanediyl; and

R<sup>6</sup> is aminosulfonyl optionally substituted with C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl or phenyl;

R<sup>7</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylsulfonyl;

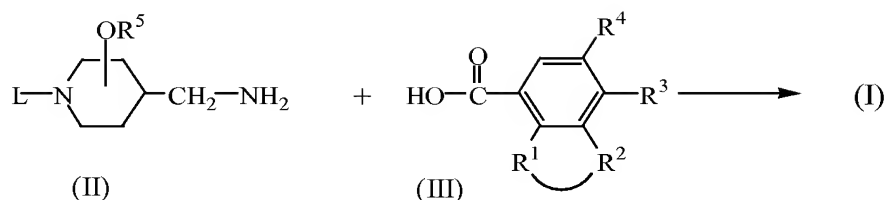
X is NR<sup>8</sup>; said R<sup>8</sup> being C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>9</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylsulfonylamino;

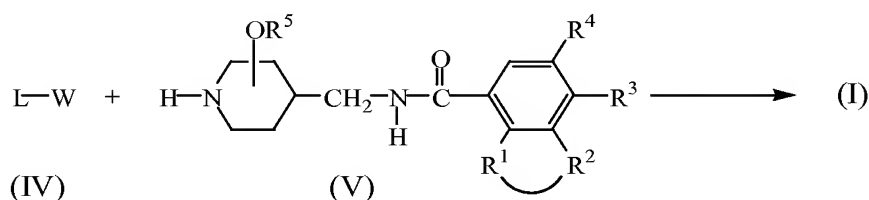
Y is a O, S, or NR<sup>10</sup> wherein R<sup>10</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and

R<sup>11</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or phenyl.

2. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the -OR<sup>5</sup> radical is situated at the 3-position of the piperidine moiety having the trans configuration.
3. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein the absolute configuration of said piperidine moiety is (3S, 4S).
4. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein L is a radical of formula (b-1) wherein Alk is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanediyl, and R<sup>6</sup> aminosulfonyl or aminosulfonyl substituted with C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl or phenyl.
5. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein L is a radical (b-5) wherein Alk is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanediyl, and R<sup>11</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl.
6. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein L is a radical (b-7) wherein Alk is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanediyl, and R<sup>11</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl.
7. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to claim 1.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein
  - a) an intermediate of formula (II) is reacted with an carboxylic acid derivative of formula (III) or a reactive functional derivative thereof;



b) an intermediate of formula (IV) is *N*-alkylated with an intermediate of formula (V), in a reaction-inert solvent and, optionally in the presence of a suitable base;



wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals -R<sup>1</sup>-R<sup>2</sup>-, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and L are as defined in claim 1 and W is an appropriate leaving group;

c) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of 5HT<sub>4</sub> related disorders comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for treating patients suffering from gastrointestinal conditions comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for treating hypermotility, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation or diarrhea predominant IBS, pain and non-pain predominant IBS and bowel

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hypersensitivity comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.